

Voting in Washington State

Voter Qualifications

To register to vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of Washington State;
- At least 18 years old by Election Day; and
- If you have been convicted of a felony in Washington, another state, or in federal court, you lose your right to vote in Washington State until your civil rights are restored.

In Washington State, you do not declare political party membership when you register to vote.

Registration Deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, keep in mind that there are registration deadlines prior to each election. You must be registered at least 30 days before an election if you register by mail or online. If you are a new voter in Washington State, you may register in person at your county elections department up to 15 days before an election.

The phone number and address of your county elections department are located in the back of this pamphlet.

How to Register to Vote

Forms are available on the Internet at **www.vote.wa.gov** or at your county elections department, public libraries, schools, and other government offices. You may also request a form through the State Voter Information Hotline. (See Services and Additional Assistance on this page.)

Keep Your Voter Registration Up-to-Date

If your voter registration record does not contain your *current* name or address, you may not be able to vote. You can use the online or mail-in voter registration form to let your county elections department know when you move or change your name. Update your record online or download a form at **www.vote.wa.gov**. You must re-register or transfer your registration at least **30 days** before the election to be eligible to vote in your new precinct.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballot requests must be made to your county elections department (not the Secretary of State). No absentee ballots are issued on Election Day except to a registered voter who is a resident of a health care facility. A ballot may be requested in person, by phone, mail, electronically or by a member of your immediate family as early as **90 days** before an election.

You may also apply in writing to **automatically** receive an absentee ballot before each election. An absentee ballot request form is in this pamphlet. ***If you have already requested an absentee ballot or have a permanent request for a ballot on file, please do not submit another application.***

You will receive your absentee or mail-in ballot approximately 14 days prior to the election. Upon receipt, vote your ballot. ***Please do not*** attempt to vote again at your polling location. Absentee and mail-in ballots must be signed and postmarked or delivered to your county elections department **on or before** Election Day.

Election Dates and Poll Hours

The August Primary is August 19, 2008. Polling place hours in King and Pierce Counties are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Services and Additional Assistance

Contact your county elections department for help with voting your ballot or finding your polling location. The phone number and address of your county elections department is located in the back of this pamphlet.

Contact the Office of the Secretary of State for:

- Voters' Pamphlets in other formats (Braille, audio cassette, large print) or languages (Spanish, Chinese);
- Lists of initiatives and referenda; and
- Voter registration, voting, and absentee ballot information.

This information is also available at **www.vote.wa.gov** or call the Voter Information Hotline, (800) 448-4881 (TDD/TTY for the hearing- or speech-impaired only is (800) 422-8683).



Already registered? Check online to be sure!

Go to www.vote.wa.gov and click on the MyVote logo

Did you know that if you are already registered to vote, you should submit a new voter registration form when you move or change your name? Your previous voter registration may still be active!

Now you may view your personalized voting information using MyVote. Review your sample ballot, your voting history, ballot drop-off locations and poll sites, and change your address.